

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA) OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE

CENTRAL ASIA REGION - Complex Emergency

Situation Report #16, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

January 18, 2002

Note: this Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Task Force Situation Reports and Fact Sheets. New information is italicized.

BACKGROUND

Prior to September 2001, two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. Government infrastructure, including the ability to deliver the most basic health, education, and other social services, collapsed. Significant local and national resources were directed to the war effort. Severe restrictions by the Taliban, which controlled as much as 90 percent of the country, including a restriction on women working outside the home, added to the impact of poverty, particularly on the many households lacking able-bodied adult men.

Humanitarian prospects worsened sharply in Afghanistan in September 2001 due to developments both inside and outside the country. Fears of a U.S. reprisal to the attacks of September 11 triggered a population exodus from major Afghan cities, both towards other points in Afghanistan and towards the country's borders. The beginning of U.S. air strikes on October 7 caused additional movement. International staff of all relief agencies withdrew after September 11, complicating the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Even prior to September 11, there were signs that relations between the international community and the Taliban were worsening significantly. These new developments added to an existing crisis of extensive displacement stemming from civil conflict and a debilitating three-year drought.

Afghanistan: Numbers Affected

Refugees Since September 11, 2001 (UNHCR)		Refugee Returns Since January 1, 2002 (UNHCR)		
Pakistan	200,000	Pakistan	25,000	
Iran	. Unknown	Iran	10,800	
Old Caseload Refugees (UNHCR)		Internally Displaced Returns (UNHCR)		
Pakistan	.2,000,000	To Kabul	30,000	
Iran	.1,500,000	To Shomali Plain		
Internally Displaced (UN/WFP)		To northeast (see text)	117,000	
Since September 11, 2001	300,000			
Old caseload				

CURRENT SITUATION

Population movements continued into and out of Afghanistan, with some 13,000 new Afghan refugees reported camped at the Afghan-Pakistan border, while more than 35,000 Afghans have reportedly returned home.

Substantial precipitation was reported throughout Afghanistan, with heavy rain reported in Hirat, heavy rain and snow in Mazar-e-Sharif, rain in Kandahar, and heavy snow in Faizabad. Limited snow was also reported in Kabul. Despite the precipitation, it is too early to conclude that the drought has ended, and precipitation has come too late for most winter planting. Precipitation also caused serious problems, including the collapse of 1,000 shelters for internally displaced persons (IDP) in Hirat. Weather

impeded access, including in Ghor and Badghis, where roads into the provinces are now reportedly partially or completely blocked by snow.

On January 17, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell traveled to Afghanistan, where he met with Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai in the presidential palace in Kabul. Powell then traveled to the U.S. mission, where he announced the upgrade of the U.S. Liaison Office to a full Embassy.

POLITICAL/MILITARY

As of January 16, 1,400 International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops were deployed inside Afghanistan, according to the office of the Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General. Kabul International Airport opened on January 15 for military flights, and is expected to open for civilian flights within a few days. The airport will supplement Bagram Air Base as an entry point to Kabul.

UN officials warned that Afghanistan's interim government could collapse if unable to come up with \$100 million within a matter of days to pay current and back wages to civil servants and police. Wages were as much as six months overdue. The Bush Administration announced on January 14 that it would free up \$221 million in Afghan government assets frozen since 1999, and Pakistan has reportedly pledged \$100 million to the new government. The UN Security Council also moved to lift sanctions against Ariana, Afghanistan's national airline.

SECURITY

On January 17, the UN announced that two UN World Food Program (WFP) trucks carrying 20 MT of wheat from Turkmenistan to Baghlan were stopped at gunpoint in the Afghan city of Aibak, Samangan Province. The gunmen reportedly took one of the trucks to downtown Aibak, where they distributed the food to local residents; the second truck was taken to a nearby military unit, according to WFP. The drivers were unharmed, and the trucks, which were commercially leased, were eventually returned to the transport company. WFP reported that it has contacted interim government officials in Mazar-e-Sharif to request that all the stolen food be returned and that the incident is not repeated. Officials have promised to cooperate. The food was intended for the NGO FOCUS for distribution in the Pul-e-Khumri and Dahana-e-Ghori districts of Baghlan.

In Kandahar, UNHCR reported January 17 that armed Taliban and bandits are still prowling the region. According to UNHCR, armed men have also been present in the IDP camps near Spin Boldak. UNHCR reported that forces tied to Kandahar's new governor have sought to persuade gunmen in these camps to withdraw or disarm.

FOOD AID AND LOGISTICS

From January 5 through 11, WFP dispatched 15,314 metric tons (MT) of food commodities into Afghanistan, at an average rate of 2,187 MT per day. WFP and implementing partners are making efforts to identify and serve remote "pockets of need" that have not yet been reached by relief agencies. Means used to reach these populations will include helicopters, weather permitting, as well as snowmobiles and donkeys. WFP also reported that two C-130 cargo planes are available to airdrop food if other access means are not available. Areas of greatest concern are remote villages at higher altitudes, some near former front lines. Areas where access was limited over the past few months due to security concerns are a high priority.

WFP has rented 300 donkeys to deliver food to remote villages in Zarah District, south of Mazare-Sharif in Balkh. The area includes Bonawash, which was recently cited by media sources as a pocket of food insecurity. According to WFP, as of January 5 1,500 MT of food had reached this district, or enough food to feed more than 150,000 people for one month. Food distribution in this area is now taking place.

In the Northern Region, DART/Islamabad has contacted WFP and USAID/OFDA's primary implementing partners to discuss progress in the distribution of food and other relief commodities. Partners contacted were Save the Children/US (active in Faryab, Jozjan, Balkh and Samangan), International Rescue Committee (active in Balkh), GOAL (active in Jozjan and Samangan), and ACTED (active in Faryab). All partners indicated that distributions were going relatively smoothly, with no problems in relief supply pipelines. WFP's chief Logistics Officer for Mazar-e-Sharif reported that there are currently no significant problems in their operation other than the recent hijacking in Samangan.

In Hirat, WFP reported that an ongoing citywide distribution of 2,641 MT of food covering 53,000 families is expected to end on January 19. The distribution, which followed a similar program in Kabul, was aimed at helping the urban population recover from the recent war impact, according to WFP. A 250-person all-female team delivered food coupons over the past 11 days to the poorest 80 percent of Hirat's population, according to WFP.

The 1.9-mile long Salang Tunnel, which was a key route between Kabul and Northern Region cities until it was blown up in 1996, has re-opened to vehicular traffic. A formal opening for the tunnel, located in Parwan Province north of Kabul, is scheduled for January 19. USAID/OFDA has supported efforts to re-open the tunnel through a grant to ACTED.

Cross-Border Food Aid Deli January 5 – January 11	veries
Dispatch Point	MT
Turkmenabad	2,296
Peshawar	4,430
Quetta	2,781
Termez	0
Mashad	2,212
Osh	1,290
Chabahar	1,999
Ishkashim	251
Kulyab/Dushanbe	0
Kurgan/Tyube	70
Total Cross-Border Deliveries	15,329

(From WFP 01/11/2002)

REGIONAL UPDATES

Northern Region. In Takhar and Kunduz, the UN reported that 600,000 doses of measles vaccines and related supplies are being prepared for distribution. Public health officials, as well as staff from UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), are training vaccination teams for a campaign to begin next week

According to the UN, UNICEF and implementing partners are providing winter emergency relief supplies to the Northern Region, including shelter, clothing, and footwear.

IOM reported that it is preparing to transport 200 IDP families (an estimated 1,300 people) from Mazar-e-Sharif to their homes in Zarah District. The operation is scheduled for next week, pending a road reconnaissance mission. NGOs are assessing needs and distributing food in the area of return, according to IOM.

Northeastern Region. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported on January 15 that most of the 18,000 IDP families (estimated as 117,000 individuals) in the northeast have now returned to their areas of origin. Areas of return have been severely affected, both by systematic scorched-earth tactics used by the Taliban in 1999 and 2001, and by drought. In addition, this population is considered highly vulnerable due to the length of time for which it was displaced. UNOCHA reported that NGOs are conducting a multi-agency damage assessment of houses in Takhar and Kunduz. Initial estimates indicate that at least 10,000 houses were badly damaged or destroyed due to Taliban occupation and conflict.

A measles vaccination campaign is ongoing in four districts of Badakhshan, according to the UN. Approximately 13,000 children have been vaccinated so far, according to UNICEF.

Central Region. In Bamiyan, the first UN plane to land since 1998 arrived at Bamiyan City this week. The UN is hoping hopes to resume regular flights to Bamiyan. Teams are on standby in the central highlands to clear all strategic passes in the event of snow blockages, in order to maintain access routes through the winter. Snow clearing efforts have allowed food deliveries to continue to Yakawlang and Balkhab.

In Kabul, WFP and the private telecommunication company Ericsson, which is providing equipment free of charge, are establishing a mobile telephone network for up to 5,000 users. The network is intended as an emergency measure in support of humanitarian workers and key Afghan government officials. Users will be able to communicate within the city and make international calls.

Communications within Kabul, as well as throughout Afghanistan is very poor, representing a major constraint for relief operations. The initiation of mobile phone service is hoped to be a significant step forward in addressing this problem.

Western region. In Hirat, WHO reported that the death rate in Maslakh, Hirat's largest IDP camp, is averaging 40 to 60 persons per week. This report contrasts sharply by a recent report indicating that as many as 100 people per day were dying. Acute respiratory diseases are the principal cause of death, according to WHO. In order to improve the accuracy of reporting on mortality rates in Maslakh, monitors will be posted at the camp to record official deaths.

Southern region. USAID/OFDA implementing partner Mercy Corps has initiated a pilot cash-forwork project in Tirin Kot district, Urozgan. The project is currently employing 106 laborers to rehabilitate a four kilometers stretch (including five culverts) on the road linking Tirin Kot city with Khas, Uruzgan district. Mercy Corps reported that the project is going smoothly and there have been no security incidents.

Following an assessment of four districts in Helmand province, Mercy Corps has identified a total of 8,064 IDP families. Mercy Corps is planning to begin relief distributions to these families, and is coordinating with Medecins Sans Frontieres, which plans to deploy mobile clinics to the area.

Pakistan. An estimated 13,000 Afghans are now waiting to enter Pakistan at the Chaman border crossing near Killi Faizo transit center. UNHCR has expressed increasing concern about this group. Conditions are poor, according to UNHCR, with many of the refugees spending their second week in the open with little or no protection from winter conditions. Recent rains have worsened the situation. UNHCR reported that it has provided blankets, as well as food and water, to the Afghans.

On January 16, Pakistan permitted 600 of the 13,000 Afghans to enter the country. On January 17, UNHCR moved 2,000 refugees from the Killi Faizo center to a new location. UNHCR also moved 334 Afghans from Quetta to the new Latifabad refugee camp, south of the city. In North West Frontier Province (NWFP), UNHCR reported that it had moved 1,265 refugees from Jalozai to new refugee sites. UNHCR reported that in total, it has established twelve new camps in Pakistan's border provinces of Baluchistan and NWFP. More than 25,000 Afghans have returned from Pakistan's Baluchistan Province since January 1, according to UNHCR.

Iran. According to UNHCR, there are currently 4,000 IDPs living in the Afghan town of Zaranj near

the Iranian border. IDPs are currently sleeping in the open and face shortages of food and water. UNHCR reported that it is working with other relief agencies to deliver necessary assistance to this population.

UNHCR reported that more than 10,000 Afghan refugees have returned from Iran in the first half of January. More than 140,000 refugees returned from Iran in 2001.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Background

On October 4, President George W. Bush announced a \$320 million assistance program for Afghanistan. Funding will support assistance to Afghans both inside and outside Afghanistan's borders, with support for food and a variety of other relief needs.

On October 4, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghans is provided by the USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, Democracy & Governance (USAID/DG), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Department of State's Demining Program, the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (State/INL), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assistance includes both assistance inside Afghanistan and assistance to Afghan refugees in neighboring countries.

In Tajikistan, on October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster due to drought, and requested funds for a seed and fertilizer distribution program. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$998,180 through the U.S. Embassy to Cooperative for American Relief

Everywhere (CARE) for the purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer.

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE

Personnel

USAID/OFDA currently has one Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) deployed to Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan to assess humanitarian activities and logistical capacity in each area, and in the region as a whole.

NEW U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

Afghanistan

USAID/OFDA has provided \$3,250,104 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for medical, public health, education and self-help programs in both camp and urban settings in Afghanistan. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided \$2.5 million to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for food security surveillance, water resource management, farm power, and spring seed distribution.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has provided \$500,000 in funding for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Trust Fund, which supports the operations and activities of the interim Afghan administration established under the Bonn Agreement.

The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided additional funding in support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNOCHA UNHCR, UNICEF, and Mercy Corps. New funding for these programs totals \$29,287,775.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL ASIA

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
	AFGHANIS	STAN - COMPLEX EMERGEN	CY FY 2002	
USAID/OFDA	1			
Airlift –	Turkmenistan	20,000 blankets, 100 rolls plastic sheeting, 20 MT BP-5 High Energy biscuits, 1 MT sugar		\$743,543
	Turkmenistan	1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for UNICEF		\$403,200
Airlift –	Islamabad	35,400 blankets		\$312,350
Airlift –	Pakistan	5 health kits		\$29,415
Airlift –	Turkmenabad	5 health kits		\$33,923
Airlift –	Uzbekistan	350,000 wheat bags		\$67,000
Airlift –	Turkmenistan	10,000 kitchen sets and 20,000 blankets		\$473,400
Airlift –	Turkmenistan	1,000 winterized tents		\$167,000
ACTED		Food, non-food items	Northeast	\$5,500,000
ACTED	1	IDP camp management	Baghlan	\$630,000
ACTED		Livelihoods, agriculture, emergency rehab	Takhar, Baghlan, Shamali, Kabul, and Faryab.	\$750,000
CARE		Water/sanitation, agricultural rehabilitation, shelter	All	\$3,537,035
Catholic (CRS)	Relief Services	Non-Food Items for 200,000 people	Central Highlands	\$988,087
Church '	World Service	Transport of non-food items		\$49,902
Concern	Worldwide	Shelter—repair 5,000 homes	Northeast	\$1,203,343
Concern	Worldwide	Distribution of seeds & tools, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, income generation activities	Badakshan, Baghlan, Takhar, Bamiyan provinces	\$1,737,318
Field Su	pport	Operational support for DARTs in Central Asia Region	•	1,339,456
	d Agriculture ation (FAO)	Seed multiplication, procurement, and distribution		\$1,095,000
FAO		Agriculture, seed multiplication		\$300,000
FAO		Security surveillance, water resource management, farm power, & spring seed distribution	All	\$2,500,000
FOCUS	/ Aga Khan	Seed multiplication, water supply rehabilitation, and complementary food distribution	Bamiyan, Baghlan, and Balkh	\$1,436,134
GOAL		Food, shelter, water, sanitation, winterization	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$5,500,000
GOAL		Emergency agricultural, potable water and sanitation rehabilitation, and shelter repair	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$1,000,000

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
Agricult	onal Center for ural Research in Dry CARDA)	Seed multiplication, technical assistance for see procurement and regulation	All	\$2,525,000
Internation	onal Committee of Cross (ICRC)	Food, non-food items	All	\$2,500,000
Internation	onal Organization ation (IOM)	Food, non-food items	Badghis, Faryab, Balkh provinces	\$562,313
IOM	,	Distribution of charcoal for cooking and heating fuel	Hirat, Kunduz, and Faryab	\$1,069,760
Internation (IMC)	onal Medical Corps	Primary health care	Hirat	\$735,000
IMC		Primary health care	Bamiyan, Wardak, Parwan provinces	\$3,500,000
	onal Rescue ee (IRC)	Food, potable water, well rehabilitation	North	\$3,650,000
IRC	X 2/	Medical, public health, education & self-help programs in camps and urban settings	Balkh, Ghor	\$3,250,104
Internation (IRG)	onal Resource Group	Food Augmentation Team		\$614,820
Mercy C	orps	Food, water, non-food items	South, Central	\$2,000,000
Mercy C	orps	Rehabilitation of wells & agriculture infrastructure, seed multiplication	Nimroz, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Takhar, Kunduz & Baghlan provinces	\$3,000,308
UNOCH	ÍΑ	Coordination	All	\$2,500,000
UNICE	7	Water, sanitation	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF	7	Nutrition, health, water, sanitation	All	\$1,650,000
Save the	Children (SC)/US	Nutrition	North	\$206,488
SC/US		Food, health	Central and North	\$2,000,000
SC/US		Spot reconstruction, cash-for-work, and medical clinic rehabilitation	Faryab, Sar-e- Pul	\$3,262,312
Shelter fo	or Life	Cash-for-work road reconstruction & emergency home repair for returning IDPs	Kunduz & Takhar	\$1,294,550
World F	ood Program (WFP)	Food - 15,000 MT, processing, transport		\$6,000,000
WFP		Purchase of trucks for food delivery		\$5,000,000
WFP		Joint Logistics Center		\$2,000,000
WFP		Logistics support equipment and services	All	\$2,500,000
Total FY	Y 2002 USAID/OFDA	·	•••••	\$82,116,761

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
USAID/FFP				
WFP		Airlift from Quetta, Pakistan to Osh,		\$2,000,000
		Kyrgyzstan		
WFP		72,700 MT Food commodities		\$38,555,000
Total FY	Y 2002 USAID/FFP		•••••	\$40,555,000
USAID/OTI				
Voice of	America	Radio program	All	\$187,820
IOM		HEAR Bulletin and Radios	All	\$1,500,000
UNDP		UNDP Trust Fund in support of the	All	500,000
		interim Afghan administration		
Total FY	Y 2002 USAID/OTI		•••••	\$2,187,820
STATE/PRM				
ICRC		Emergency Appeal		\$13,500,000
IFRC		Emergency Appeal		\$5,000,000
IOM		Emergency Appeal		\$2,000,000
Mercy C	orps	Operational support		\$162,775
	Vations Development	Project Management Information		\$160,000
	(UNDP)	System		
UNOCH		Donor Alert for Afghans Program		\$2,125,000
United N Fund (U	Vations Population NFPA)	Special Program for Afghanistan		\$600,000
WFP	,	Operations/Logistics Support		\$4,000,000
UNHCR		Emergency Appeal		\$30,000,000
UNICEF	7	Emergency Relief		\$4,000,000
Total FY	Y 2002 State/PRM		•••••	\$61,547,775
DOD				. , ,
Airdron	of 2.423.700 Humanit	arian Daily Rations (HDRs)		\$50,897,769
			•••••	
		fghanistan**		

TAJIKISTAN – DROUGHT FY 2002			
USAID/OFDA			
CARE	Purchase and distribution of winter	\$998,180	
	wheat to 36,000 people		
Total FY 2002 US	SAID/OFDA	\$998,180	
USAID/FFP			
WFP	35,000 MT wheat flour	20,000,000	
Total FY 2002 I	USAID/FFP	\$20,000,000	
Total FY 2002 USG Ass	istance to Tajikistan	\$20,998,180	

FY 2001/ FY 2002 SUMMARY	
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2001*	\$183,107,625
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002	\$237,305,125
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002/2001	\$420,412,750
Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001	\$67,210,000
Note: FY 2001 USG assistance to Tajikistan included assistance through USAID/OFDA, USAID/F	FP, USDA, the
Department of State, and Freedom Support Act funds administered through a variety of agencies.	
Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002	\$88,208,180

^{*}Note: Detailed breakdowns of FY 2001 and FY 2002 assistance are available in previous Central Asia Region Situation Reports. UDSA estimates for FY2001 donations increased by approximately \$4.5 million due to unforeseen costs for transport

Bernd McConnell Director, Central Asia Task Force

USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html

^{**}Note: DOD funding totals are estimates. The previously reported total of more than \$120 million reflects the estimated total cost of the entire four to five month airdrop operation.